

APPEAL NO. 030379  
FILED MARCH 31, 2003

This appeal arises pursuant to the Texas Workers' Compensation Act, TEX. LAB. CODE ANN. § 401.001 *et seq.* (1989 Act). A contested case hearing was held on January 21, 2003. The hearing officer determined that the appellant (claimant herein) was not entitled to supplemental income benefits (SIBs) for the second and third quarters because the claimant failed to make a good faith effort to seek employment during the filing periods for these quarters. The hearing officer specifically found that the claimant had an ability to work during the qualifying period for the second quarter, but did not seek employment, and that the claimant failed to seek employment during every week of the qualifying period for the third quarter. The claimant appeals, contending that the decision of the hearing officer is contrary to the evidence. The respondent (carrier herein) replies that the decision of the hearing officer should be affirmed.

DECISION

Finding sufficient evidence to support the decision of the hearing officer and no reversible error in the record, we affirm the decision and order of the hearing officer.

Section 408.142(a)(4) states that one requirement for SIBs eligibility is that the claimant attempt in good faith to obtain employment commensurate with the claimant's ability to work. Whether a claimant satisfied the good faith requirement for SIBs entitlement is a factual question for the hearing officer to resolve. Texas Workers' Compensation Commission Appeal No. 94150, decided March 22, 1994. The hearing officer is the sole judge of the relevance, materiality, weight, and credibility of the evidence presented at the hearing. Section 410.165(a). As an appellate tribunal, the Appeals Panel will not disturb the challenged factual findings of a hearing officer unless they are so against the great weight and preponderance of the evidence as to be clearly wrong or manifestly unjust. Cain v. Bain, 709 S.W.2d 175, 176 (Tex. 1986); In re King's Estate, 150 Tex. 662, 244 S.W.2d 660 (1951). The evidence was conflicting and applying the standard of review stated above, we find no legal basis to overturn the decision of the hearing officer.

The decision and order of the hearing officer are affirmed.

The true corporate name of the insurance carrier is **AMERICAN HOME ASSURANCE COMPANY** and the name and address of its registered agent for service of process is

**CORPORATION SERVICE COMPANY  
800 BRAZOS, SUITE 750, COMMODORE 1  
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701.**

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Gary L. Kilgore  
Appeals Judge

CONCUR:

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Daniel R. Barry  
Appeals Judge

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Michael B. McShane  
Appeals Panel  
Manager/Judge